

KITCHENER THINKS BOERS ARE CHECKED

Says They Received Little Assistance in Cape Colony—But the Outlook is Dark at Best.

London, Dec. 23.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, December 22nd:

"As far as it is possible for me to form an opinion from reports of officers on the spot, I think the Boer movement into Cape Colony has been checked. Of the two forces that entered the colony, the eastern is still north of Zoutpansburg range, while the one that entered west appears to have been turned in the direction of Britstown and Prinsloo. Our troops are getting around both bodies, and a special column is also being organized, which will be dispatched immediately when I know where its services are most wanted.

"The Boers have not received much assistance in Cape Colony, as far as my information goes. We have armed some of the colonists, who are assisting our forces. Railway and telegraph communication has been much interrupted by the very bad weather.

"Dewet is in the neighborhood of Gen. French, in conjunction with Gen. Clements, attacked a force under Beyer south of Magaliesburg. The Boers broke away in a southerly direction, toward Potchefstroom, and were followed by Gen. Gordon with a column of French's force.

"Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock Clements's force was engaged south of Oshington, but I do not yet know the result.

"A later dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, December 22nd, says: 'The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut the railway south of De Aar Junction. The enemy is being followed up.

"Gen. French has been in contact for days with the commandos of Beyer and Delany, south of Magaliesburg. He is pursuing them. The enemy have lost considerably and Commandant Kreutz and others have been captured.

"Gen. Colville engaged two separate commandos December 21st, near Vlakfontein, with slight losses, the enemy retiring."

MOST SPLENDID EVER KNOWN HERE

Ceremonial at the President's Inauguration—Lots of Money Will be Distributed to Decorators, Etc.—\$45,000 of the \$50,000 is Subscribed.

New York, Dec. 24.—President McKinley's second inauguration, on March 4 next, will be marked with a ceremonial splendor never before attempted in the city, says the Washington correspondent of the World. The inaugural committee, of which John Joy Edson is chairman, intends to make the inauguration a magnificent spectacle.

Military will be the main feature of the parade. The committee has invited State organizations to participate and from the responses it is probable that more militia bodies will be in line than ever before. The regular troops around Washington will be brought here. The cadets from the military and naval academies will also be in attendance.

Civil bodies will be well represented, but the object of the committee is to make the parade as military as possible. Hundreds of applications have been received from Roush Rider committees that wish to participate.

As inauguration will be the decorations of the Capitol and White House, Mr. Edson will ask Congress to authorize the running of electric lighting wires over the White House. He intends that the Capitol building, and especially the great dome, shall be outlined in incan-

ROOSEVELT ACTED WISELY

His Course Warmly Approved by Ex-Mayor Hewitt.

The Governor Acted Above Partisan Motives, and for the Good of the People.

New York, Dec. 24.—"The removal of District Attorney Gardner," ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt said last night, "cannot be regarded with satisfaction from whatever point of view the situation is looked at. Governor Roosevelt has acted with extreme wisdom. He does not seem to have taken advantage of the opportunity that was presented to him to make partisan capital out of it. It is to be inferred from the fact that he appointed a Democrat to succeed Mr. Gardner, that he was not swayed by partisan motives in taking the action that he did. I think that the general feeling at election time was that the officers of the law had behaved very badly. Gardner, Devere, the mayor and the sheriff adopted altogether a false position at the time of the election, but the mayor and the sheriff subsequently absolved themselves, while the district attorney did not."

Replying to an inquiry as to what effect, in his opinion, the change in the administration of the district attorney's office would have upon the reform efforts which had been instituted, Mr. Hewitt said:

"I should think that it was the first effective step toward realizing such reform as is possible in a city like New York. But in this matter of reform I would like to say that the people must not expect too much. Much will have been accomplished when this city is made a decent place to live in. Vice cannot be got rid of until virtue is substituted for it. That transformation will prove a slow process. It will take

ly after 11 o'clock by George Ashley, the 12-year-old son of H. H. Ashley. The sack was lying in a hole about five feet in depth, partially covered up with a piece of tin, and some old papers. When the chief went into the hole he found that a slit had been made in the leather sack, and that the contents of the bag had been gone over. Ladies' pocket books were revealed by the removal of the papers, and boxes, which evidently contained rings and jewelry, were seen to have been opened.

As the case is one that properly belongs to the United States officers, the chief made no further investigation, and he and the officer carried the sack to the postoffice without making any examination as to its contents. The hole which was cut in the leather sack was about four by seven inches, the cut being in the shape of a right angle. It could be seen through the cut that the cloth jacket, which is inside of the registered mail pouch, had been taken out, but what was done with it is not known.

It was impossible last night to get to any of the postoffice officials to learn how extensive the rifling of the sack had been.

"The question which the police are now trying to figure out is whether or not the bag was stolen while it was being loaded from the rear door of the postoffice or whether it was taken while the wagon was on its way to the depot. The latter appears to be the more plausible solution of the case."

ACTIVITY OF BOERS.

The Cape Colony cabinet had an important sitting yesterday (Sunday). It appears that the Boers have destroyed a railway bridge, ninety feet long, and no Cape mails have arrived at Bloemfontein for three days.

Further anxiety has been caused in Cape Colony by the discovery that during the last two months public bodies in out-of-the-way places have requisitioned supplies of dynamite. The colonial government is now endeavoring to recover possession of these explosives and removing all stores of arms and ammunition from suspected depots.

Other advices from Cape Colony report that the Dutch elements in Cape Colony are greatly elated over the southward progress of the Boers, and as boasting that the whole district of Victoria West will join the raiders. It is suspected in Cape Colony that the Boers are very active between Johannesburg and Pretoria, exchanging shots with the British outposts, and it is reported that parties of Boers are hovering around Johannesburg.

THE ASPHALT LAKE TROUBLE WITH VENEZUELA.

The National Asphalt company has asked the government to send warships to Venezuela to protect property rights. These rights comprise the ownership of the great asphalt lake of Venezuela. The National Asphalt company claims it has paid for the exclusive right to work these deposits and that the Castro government has awarded a concession to a rival company. Avery D. Andrews, ex-adjutant general of New York, is vice president of the protesting company and is making the demands on Washington for protection.

ing, is missing, it evidently having been stolen between the postoffice and the Great Northern depot. The pouch was an extremely valuable one, containing as it did the principal portion of Christmas remembrances sent east from here, being due in Chicago Monday morning. The pouch was loaded on to the mail wagon at midnight Friday night.

Today the stolen mail pouch was found in a prospect hole in town. The sack had been rifled, the boxes being scattered around where the sack was found. Postoffice officials refuse all information as to the contents of the sack.

The White House Xmas.

New York, Dec. 24.—A special to the World from Washington says: Christmas presents are arriving in great numbers at the White House, coming from relatives, personal friends and admirers of the McKineys. The character of the gifts is varied. Some are comic, others unique, and not a few are on the freak order. They come not only from the States, but from the West Indies, and the far East.

Cigars without number are sent to the President from Cuba, Porto Rico and Manila.

Tropical fruits, including crates of pine-apples, bananas and oranges, have been received at the executive mansion and turkey, barrels of apples and wild game have come from friends within the States. One of the first presents to arrive was a white turkey from Dublin, Va., weighing thirty pounds. It was the wish of the donor that this big bird might grace the table over which the chief executive presided on Christmas day. The wish may be gratified.

RAILWAY STRIKE.

Pennsylvania Men Demand Increase of Wages.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 23.—Every one of the 300 car and barn employees of the Scranton Railway company obeyed the strike order, which went into effect at 5 o'clock this morning, and as a result all of the Lackawanna valley today, the two were manned by Superintendent Patterson and dispatchers, foremen and clerks. No attempt was made to molest them, and although rain fell a great part of the day, the two cars seldom had a passenger.

The tie-up region extends from Pittston to Forest City, a distance of thirty miles, and includes sixty-five miles of track on which are run ordinarily eighty cars.

The men of the Wyoming Valley Traction company, operating the lines south of Pittston as far as Nanticoke, threaten to go on strike Thursday. With both companies tied up, there would be a total cessation of street-car traffic in a busy stretch of the four big cities of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburg and Carbondale.

The strikers met tonight and appointed committees to man the different railroad stations. They are to watch for men, who, it is reported, have been recruited in Philadelphia to take their places. They will also distribute cards to strangers, notifying them of the strike and asking them not to ride on the cars. An appeal to the local public was also issued, asking that the cars be not patronized.

The men demand 25 cents an hour for old employees and from 15 to 17½ for new ones. They also demand a ten-hour day. The company in its answer to the grievance committee says it is not in a position to afford any increase in wages at the present time.

stated the road would be operated with new men if the old ones cannot be secured.

Will Test Mosquitoes.

Youngstown, O., Dec. 23.—Dr. Clark of this city received a letter from John J. Morgan, dated "Experimental Sanitary Camp, Quinsada, Cuba," in which the latter says he has volunteered to test the theory that the germs of yellow fever are carried by mosquitoes.

He says he will be placed in a house built for the purpose and sleep there every night in a room with forty-five mosquitoes that have bitten yellow fever patients. He says that two men bitten have taken yellow fever, and that the theory bids fair to be established.

Morgan was formerly a coachman in Youngstown and enlisted in the hospital service at the outbreak of the late war.

DAMAGE BY STORM.

Two Negroes and a Number of Animals Killed.

Macon, Miss., Dec. 23.—News was received here today that a tornado passed through the eastern edge of Nottoway county and the western part of Pickens and Sumpter counties, Ala., last night, doing great damage. Telephone news is meager. One house on the Sparkman plantation was destroyed. A residence on the Ross place near Cookeville was wrecked and its furniture destroyed. On the Ross place several horses were blown away. On the John Windham place the storehouse and

Battleship Maine's Chaplain.

New York, Dec. 24.—Father J. P. Chudwick, who was a chaplain of the battleship Maine when she was blown up in the harbor of Havana, and who

procedure, was questioned last night on the subject of the Canadian senate. It has been proposed to reform that body, and the government has for some time had under consideration changes amending the constitutional provisions on the subject in the British North America act, under which the provinces of Canada were confederated.

Sir John said he did not agree with those who talked of abolishing the senate. The usefulness of a second chamber has been sufficiently demonstrated in Canada. He believed, however, the time had come when a change in the mode of selecting senators might usefully be considered. The feeling aroused by the exercise of the power of the senate majority against the will of the majorities in the house and the recent discussion of the methods by which the party preponderance was secured, have pointed to the desirability of an improvement in the mode of filling vacancies. His own idea was to substitute for the present system one partly of election and partly of nomination. The cities, the universities, the suburban districts, might be separately grouped for senate electoral purposes, the government nominating the balance, following largely the Danish system, which he regarded as a good one. The result would be a more representative body and one much more in touch with the people than a senate wholly nominated by the government.

The condition of Prince Oscar, Duke of Slesvig, eldest son of the Crown Prince of Sweden and Norway, who has been seriously ill, is now much improved.

The disappearance of Lieut. Count Smolensky, military attaché of the Swedish and Norwegian legation in Berlin, is attributed to a mental derangement.

The Klondike passengers arriving at Seattle report the death from heart failure of John A. McDonald, one of the most successful miners of the camp.

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Tacoma, B. Part Los Angeles, put in at San Francisco yesterday for provisions. On December 19th, the Matamoras encountered the full force of the terrific storm off Destruction Island.

Emperor Nicholas and the ministers of finance and foreign affairs do not expect to leave Livadia, where the czar is convalescing, before the middle of January.

The semi-official Paris Temps announces a confirmation of the press dispatch that the victory of the province of Hu Pei and Hu Nan declares that Wu Chang will be made an open port.

The strike that was caused by the closing of the prefect of police of the bureau of higher police in Genoa came to an end yesterday, the announcement that the government had consented to a reconstruction of the bureau.

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